Choice Verses

and other matter
to be committed to memory,
or for reading. For use in the
Sunday School and the Home.

Edited by Charles F. Dole

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THE GIFT OF

C. J. Wolfe

CHOICE VERSES

AND OTHER MATTER

TO BE COMMITTED TO MEMORY OR FOR READING
FOR USE IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THE HOME

EDITED BY
CHARLES F. DOLE

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PREFACE

Please Read

The highest values in the world lie in certain great and ancient sentences, mostly from the Old and New Testaments. They contain ruling ideas which make civilization possible. They hold the promise for the future of the race. They also carry the secret of the happy life. There is no greater service which we can render our children, by way of education, than to store their minds with these famous sentences. They may not always understand how much the words mean; they may often forget the names and dates of Bible History, but if they catch the thought and spirit of at least a dozen to twenty of the best of the Bible teachings, if they learn some day to love the standards, the ideals, and the life which these few teachings set forth; if besides they put the noble verses into practice, and discover their actual power and beauty and joy, their souls can never die; they will have entered here and now into the immortal life.

I have tried, in this little book, in response to a need long felt in my own Sunday School, to gather the most excellent passages from the Old and New Testaments which seem best suited to set forth the great laws and ideals of the good life. I have not, of course, included all that might have been chosen. I have thought it well to mark specially such as every one ought surely to know, adding a goodly number of other verses, to the learning of which teachers, or parents, might easily, I trust, stir the interest of children who are gifted with a quick memory. In the case of younger children, it might not be amiss to offer suitable gifts or rewards of merit for learning extra verses.

A natural suggestion would be that in the opening exercises of the School, a few minutes could be given in first reading together, and later, as the passages become familiar, in reciting together a few of the selections at each session. In any case the teachers would be free to use as much or little of the material offered as seems adaptable to the needs of the class. While this work is not intended as a substitute for other lessons, I have tried to indicate by the headings of the selections, how nearly all of them could readily be made the subject matter for indefinite teaching, conversation or discussion and illustration.

It may not have been thought necessary to designate the verses by chapter and number. This was purposely done with the hope of encouraging the pupils to become familiar with the Bible by the process of finding the passages.

Besides Bible texts, I have added a number of memorable sayings from the great Stoics, and the oriental scriptures, both for the sake of their intrinsic value and in order to show the universality of the most profound religious ideas.

One section of the book contains the choicest of the Psalms. I have preferred to use the old version, but I have not hesitated occasionally to omit or alter words, when this was required for my purpose. Often I have been able

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to use only a few verses from a Psalm. My wish has been to take only those portions which serve the devotional needs of the modern mind. The portions of the Psalms specially suited to memoriter use are designated accordingly. They all may be used for reading responsively or in unison, as a part of the general exercises of the school. The headings may, perhaps, help the mind better to grasp the thought, and also serve the teacher occasionally in offering a subject for use with the class.

Our modern Book of Psalms is the Hymn Book. I have brought together about thirty hymns to be committed to memory. Our experience in learning hymns has shown the inconvenience of having to refer the learner to the Church Hymn Book. In this little book the whole School can readily learn a given hymn together by making it first a matter for reading or singing in the opening service. Certain other fine passages from modern poets, worthy of being memorized, have been added. One does not know where to stop in selecting hymns and poems. I believe, however, that this collection contains nothing unworthy of the labor of learning by heart. It will be easy for the teacher or parent to add favorite verses to the list.

I have ventured to suggest a number of notable passages for reading from the Bible. Sometimes the Superintendent may like one of them for the opening of the School. Frequently a class requires the extempore services of a teacher who may be glad to use one or more of them in the absence of any prepared lesson. They may often provide supplementary lessons. Unfortunately many persons are unable to find their way in the Bible, and so do not know where some of the best reading is. Moreover, the finding of passages in all parts of the Bible is an exercise designed to familiarize the learner with the character of the book.

It is hoped that in addition to the use of this little manual in Sunday School, it may serve parents in many a home who need material for a quiet hour with their children, and often ask what they can do by way of moral and religious instruction.

CHARLES F. DOLE.

Jamaica Plain, June, 1910.

Thanks are due Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., publishers of R. W Gilder's poems, for their courtesy in permitting the use of the verses "From Love to Light"; also to Prof. W. H. Carruth, of Lawrence, Kansas, the author of "Each in His Own Tongue," and to Rev. F. L. Hosmer, S. T. D., for his excellent hymns.

CHOICE VERSES

BIBLE PASSAGES TO LEARN BY HEART.

The Ten Commandments. For the longer forms see Ex. xx and Deut. v.

The short form:—

1. **Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**
2. **Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.**
3. **Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.**
4. **Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.**
5. **Honor thy father and mother.**
6. **Thou shalt not kill.**
7. **Thou shalt not commit adultery.**
8. **Thou shalt not steal.**
9. **Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.**
10. **Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbour's.**

What nations or peoples regard these rules?

Which is the most important of them all? Why?

Has the world outgrown any of them?

What rule or commandment sums up all the others? Rom. xiii: 8 etc. Owe no man anything, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, **Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.** Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

What do we call the one perfect law? The Golden Rule.

Its earliest forms:—

Lev. xix: 17. Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart; Thou shalt not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Deut. vi: 4, 5. The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Also,

Deut. x: 18, 19. He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger.

The Golden Rule in the New Testament:—

Matt. vii: 12. All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Also,

Luke x: 27. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Which form do you like best?

What does love mean here?

The Great Benediction. Numbers vi: 24–27. The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

A Motto of Courage. Josh. i: 9. Be strong and of a good courage: be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Friendship and Fidelity. Ruth i: 16, 17. Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.

The Good Man. Job xxix: 12–16. I delivered the poor that cried, the fatherless also, that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my justice was as a robe and a diadem. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the needy: and the cause of him that I knew not I searched out.

About Wisdom. From Proverbs iii.

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding:

For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

Read also Job xxviii: 12–28. Also Prov. viii.

Generosity. Prov. xi: 24. There is that scattereth, and increaseth yet more. And there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth only to want.

11. Cor. ix: 6. He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully. God loveth a cheerful giver.

Luke vi: 38. Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

The Law of Success. Eccl. ix: 10. **Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.**

About the Tongue. Prov. xv: 1, 2. **A soft answer turneth away wrath: But a grievous word stirreth up anger. The tongue of the wise uttereth knowledge aright; but the mouth of fools poureth out folly.**

Prov. xvi: 24. Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Prov. xv: 23. A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth; and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

Ps. xxxiv: 13. Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Prov. xxi: 23. Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles.

James i: 26. **If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.**

About Mercy and Kindness. Prov. xiv: 21. He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth; but he that hath pity on the poor, happy is he.

Prov. xii: 10. **A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast.**

Prov. xix: 17. He that hath pity upon the poor, lendeth unto the Lord: and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Prov. xxii: 2. The rich and poor meet together; the Lord is the maker of them all.

Prov. xvii: 5. Whoso mocketh the poor, reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.

About the Stranger. Lev. xix: 34. **If a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself.**

To what great class in America does this verse apply? From what lands do our immigrants come? What reasons have we to believe that they will make good American citizens?

About Anger. Prov. xvi: 32. **He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.**

xv: 17. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. A wrathful man stirreth up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

xxv: 28. He that hath no rule over his spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls.

xvi: 18. **Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.**

xvii: 14. The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water.

Rom. xii: 17. **Recompense to no man evil for evil. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

Against Strong Drink. Prov. xxiii: 29 etc. Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babbling? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine. **Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup. At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.**

xx: 1. Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler.

About Justice. Lev. xix: 11 etc. **Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another. Thou shall not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning. Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale-bearer, among the people. Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart.**

Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in weight or in measure. Just balances, just weights ye shall have.

Deut. i: 17. Ye shall not respect persons in judgment, but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; and the judgment is God's.

Prov. xvi: 8. Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues without right.

xxi: 15. **It is joy to the righteous to do judgment.**

xxi: 3. To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. v. 21. **He that followeth after righteousness and mercy, findeth life, righteousness and honour.**

xiv: 34. **Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.**

xxiv: 10. **If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.**

xxii: 1. **A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.**

The Good Time Coming. Is. ii: 4. **They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

xi: 2 etc. **The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;** and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth:

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of the reins.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with

the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

xxxii: 17. **And the work of righteousness shall be peace: and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.**

Joel ii: 28. And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.

The Chosen Leader. Is. xlii: 1 etc. Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my Spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench; he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

The Whole Duty of Man. Eccl. xii: 13, 14. **Fear God and keep his Commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.**

What is it to fear God? To fear to do wrong. What is the difference between the fear of God and the love of God? To love to do right is better than to fear to do evil.

Prof. Huxley's favorite passage. Micah vi: 8. **What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.**

What three points are included here? Justice, kindness, and modesty.

What is the great word of the Old Testament? Righteousness.

What other great words appear often? Wisdom and love.

Who is God? John iv: 24. **God is spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

I. John i: 5. **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**

iv: 16. **God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.**

Where is God? Ps. cxxxix: 7 etc. **Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence!**

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in the grave, behold, thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me: even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

Also Acts xvii: 24 etc. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

For in him we live, and move, and have our being; for we are also his offspring.

What is the highest name by which we call God? Our Father, as in the Lord's Prayer. Mal. ii: 10. Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?

Repeat the Lord's Prayer. Matt. vi: 9–14. What are its chief points?

Who are we? I. John iii: 2. **Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the Sons of God. Now are we the Sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be.**

Rom. viii: 16 etc. As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God.

If God be for us, who can be against us!

How do we know about God? Rom. viii: 16. **The Spirit itself witnesseth with our Spirit, that we are the children of God.**

I. John iv. **Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.**

No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

I. John iii: 24. He that keepeth his Commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

John vii: 17. **If any man will do his will, he shall know.**

I. John ii: 17. **He that doeth the will of God, abideth forever.**

Matt. vii: 21. **Not every one that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**

What do all these words mean? They mean that we learn to know the

good life by practising it. We know that we are God's children by behaving as God's children, that is, by doing just and friendly acts.

The rule of the good life. Acts xx: 35. **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

Matt. x: 8. **Freely ye have received, freely give.**

What does **blessed** mean? Happy.

THE BEATITUDES.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

What do these words mean? They mean that the happiest people are the gentle or friendly, the righteous or honest, the merciful, and the clean in heart and life, the peacemakers, and those who bear adversity with cheerfulness.

Show that the good must also be brave.

Prov. xxviii. **The wicked flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous are bold as a lion.**

I. John iv: 18. **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.**

Acts v: 29. **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

If we obey God and do right what is there to fear?

The Rule of Forgiveness. Luke vi: 36. **Be ye merciful as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.**

The Lord's Prayer. Matt. vi: 9–14.

What is God's kingdom that we pray for? The rule of justice everywhere.

What is God's will? The good will that overcomes evil.

The Greatest People in the World. Luke xxii: 26. **He that is greatest among you let him be as the younger, and he that is chief as he that doth serve.**

Matt. xx: 26. Whosoever will be great among you, let him be **your minister: and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.**

What do these words mean? They mean that the greatest happiness in the world comes in doing helpful things.

Jesus' Invitation. Matt. xi: 28. Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Jesus' Teaching about Anxiety. Matt. vi: 25. **Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food and the body than the raiment! Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns: and your heavenly Father feedeth them. And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin: yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God doth so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith!** Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewith shall we be clothed? For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **But seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

What a Good Will Effects. Matt. vii: 7 etc. **Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.**

The Test of Men's Lives. Matt. vii : 16 etc. **By their fruits ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit, but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.**

Gal. v: 22. **The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, temperance.**

Matt. xxv: 34 etc. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was a hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee a hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

The Children of the Light. Luke xi: 34 etc. **The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light: but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.**

Take heed therefore, that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

About the Sabbath day. Mark ii: 27. The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.

About Work. II. Thess. iii: 10. **If any will not work, neither let him eat.**

John v: 17. My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

Luke ii: 49. I must be about my Father's business.

For Modesty. Luke ix: 55. Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

Luke xiv: 11. Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

About the Treasure. Luke xii: 34. **Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

The One Service. Luke xvi: 13. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Josh. xxiv: 15. Choose ye this day whom ye will serve. Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and truth.

Where God's Kingdom Is. Luke xvii: 20. **The kingdom of God cometh not with observation, for behold, the kingdom of God is within you.**

Deut. xxx: 11 etc. It is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven that thou shouldest say, Who will go up for us to heaven and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

About truth. John iii: 21. **He that doeth truth cometh to the light.**

viii: 32. **The truth shall make you free.**

The Good in Every Nation. Acts x: 34. **Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**

About life and Death. Rom. vi: 23. **The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.**

viii: 15. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Father.

viii: 38 etc. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life shall be able to separate us from the love of God.

About the Results of Our Acts. Gal. vi: 7 etc. For **Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**

About Human Society. Rom. xii: 5; I. Cor. xii: 21. **We being many are one body and every one members one of another. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again, the head to the feet, I have no need of you. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it.**

Rom. xiv: 7, 19. **For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace.**

Peter ii: 17. **Honor all men.** How is this last possible?

About Helpfulness. Rom. xv: 1. **We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.**

Gal. vi: 2. **Bear ye one another's burdens.**

About Self-Help. Gal. vi. **Every man shall bear his own burden.** How do you understand these two rules?

Eph. ii: 4. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

About the Clean Life. I. Cor. vi: 19, 20. **Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

What does **holy** mean? Whole, sound, complete, and well.

What is the price of life? Labor, study, care, love, and sacrifice, as, for example, of the good mother.

Paul's Rule. I. Cor. x: 31. **Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**

What is the glory of God? Whatever makes life strong and beautiful, as, for example, honor, courage, faithfulness, and love.

What is the greatest of Paul's teachings? About love in I. Cor. xiii. Learn the whole of it, or at least **vs. 4, 5, 6, 7, 13.**

Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth in the truth.

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Paul's Motto. I. Cor. xvi: 13, 14. **Watch ye, stand fast in the faith; quit you like men, be strong. Let all things be done with love.**

About Things Seen and Unseen. II. Cor. iv: 18. **We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

What are some of the wonderful things which we cannot see? Life, energy, will, and love.

What was Paul's experience in bearing trouble? II. Cor. xii: 10. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

What does this mean? It means that when any one does his best for duty or love, the strength of God comes to him.

A Friendly Benediction. II. Cor. xiii: 11. **Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.**

The Good Spirit. Eph. iv: 31 etc. **Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind one to another; and walk in love.**

v. 2 etc. **Now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light.**

The Ideal Life. Eph. iv: 13. **Till we all come in unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.**

Is there anything impossible in this?

For Children. Eph. vi: 1 etc. **Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honour thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.**

Short Rules. I. Thess. v; James i: 19. **Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. Prove all things. Hold fast that which is good. Abstain from every kind of evil. Rejoice evermore.**

"Whatsoever." Phil. iv: 8. **Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**

About Contentment. Phil. iv: 11. **I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**

Explain how one can learn this.

About Heartiness. Col. iii: 23. **Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men.**

What does this mean? To put our heart into our work, and not to work for reward, or praise, or pay.

About Power. Phil. iv: 13. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

What does this mean? Whenever we try to do our best for right, for truth, or for love, all the power of the universe is with us.

About Fearlessness. I. Peter iii: 13. **Who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?**

About the Future. Rom. viii: 28 etc. **All things work together for good to them that love God.**

Isa. xliv: 4; I. Cor. ii: 9. **Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**

Rev. xxi: 3, 4; xxii: 5. Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light.

John xiv: 1, 2. Let not your heart be troubled. In my Father's house are many mansions.

Rev. xiv: 13. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: for they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them.

Wisdom of Sol. iii. The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and there shall no evil touch them.

SENTENCES FROM MARCUS AURELIUS.

About Self-Respect. Never value anything as profitable to thyself which shall compel thee to break thy promise, to lose thy self-respect, to hate any man, to suspect, to curse, to act the hypocrite, to desire anything which needs walls and curtains.

About Doing Things for Praise. As a horse when he has run, a dog when he has tracked the game, a bee when it has made the honey, so a man, when he has done a good act, does not call out for others to come and see, but he goes on to another act, as a vine goes on to produce again the grapes in season.

The Thoughts. Such as are thy habitual thoughts, such also will be the character of thy mind.

About Open-Mindedness. If any man is able to convince me and show me that I do not think or act right, I will gladly change; for I seek the truth, by which no man was ever injured.

The Simple Life. Keep thyself simple, pure, serious, free from affectation, a friend of justice, kind, affectionate, strenuous in all proper acts. Reverence God and help men.

Good Listening. Accustom thyself to attend carefully to what is said by another; and as much as it is possible, be in the speaker's mind.

The Swarm and the Bee. That which is not good for the swarm is not good for the bee. Men exist for the sake of one another. Teach them, then, or bear with them.

The Emerald. Whatever anyone does or says, I must be good, as if the gold or the emerald, or the purple, were always saying this, Whatever any one does or says, I must be emerald, and keep my color.

The Hazard of Life. Thou sayest not well, if thou thinkest that a man, who is good for anything at all, ought to compute the hazard of life or death and should not rather look to this only in all that he does, whether he is doing what is just or unjust, and the works of a good or a bad man.

Wherever a man has placed himself, thinking it the best place for him, or has been placed by a commander, there, in my opinion, he ought to stay and to abide the hazard, taking nothing into the reckoning, either death or anything else, before the baseness of deserting his post.—*Quoted from Plato.*

The Inner Life. Look within; within is the fountain of life.

The Right. If it is not right, do not do it; if it is not true, do not say it.

FROM EPICTETUS AND THE STOICS.

Our Heavenly Father. If a person could be persuaded, as he ought, that we are all descended from God, and that He is our Father, he would never think of himself meanly or ignobly.

About Moral Courage. When you do anything from a clear judgment that it ought to be done, never shrink from being seen to do it, even though the world should misunderstand it; for, if you are not acting rightly, shun the action itself; if you are, why fear those who wrongly censure you?

The Two Handles. Everything has two handles; one by which it may be borne, another by which it cannot.

The Danger Line. What ought not to be done, do not even think of doing.

The Appetites. Choose rather to punish your appetites than to be punished by them.

Self-Control. No one is free who commands not himself.

In the Light of God. If you always remember that God stands by as a witness of whatever you do, either in soul or body, you will never err, either in your prayers, or actions, and you will have God abiding with you.

The Best Life. Choose the best life, for habit will make it pleasant.

Our Friends. We ought to do well by our friends when they are present, and speak well of them when they are absent.

FROM THE "DHAMMAPADA," INDIA.

Hatred does not cease by hatred at any time; hatred ceases by love; this is an old rule.

If one man conquer in battle a thousand times a thousand men, and if another conquer himself, he is the greatest of conquerors.

He who lives a hundred years, not seeing the highest law, a life of one day is better, if a man sees the highest law.

Do not speak harshly to anybody; those who are spoken to will answer thee in that same way. Angry speech is painful, blows for blows will touch thee.

Let a man overcome anger by love, let him overcome evil by good, let him overcome the greedy by liberality, the liar by truth.

Speak the truth, do not yield to anger; give, if thou art asked, from the little thou hast; by those steps thou wilt go near the gods.

THE BEST OF THE PSALMS.

I.

THE HAPPY MAN.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

III, IV, V.

FOR REST AND SLEEP.

I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me.

Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.

There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep; for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.

Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my meditation.

Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord, in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

As for me, I will come unto thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

VIII.

THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE GLORY OF MAN.

O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth; who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength.

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

XV.

THE UPRIGHT.

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

He that honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

XVI, XVII.

THE PATH OF LIFE.

Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.

The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.

I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

For thou wilt not leave my soul in the grave, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life; in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

XIX.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD.

The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth his handy-work.

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

There is no speech nor language, and their voice is not heard.

Their line is gone out all through the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

XXIII.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

XXIV.

GOD'S WORLD.

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

XXV.

COMING TO GOD

Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving kindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord.

Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

XXVII.

COURAGE.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear.

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle he shall hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

Thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path.

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord.

XXXIII.

JOY AND TRUST.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; for praise is comely for the upright.

Praise the Lord with harp:

Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.

For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.

He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

He gathereth the waters of the sea together as a heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

The Lord looketh from Heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.

From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.

There is nothing saved by the multitude of a host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.

Behold, the eye of the Lord, is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he is our help and our shield.

For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

XXXIV.

A PSALM OF TRUST.

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

O fear the Lord, ye his saints, for there is no want to them that fear him.

The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger; but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.

Come, ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good!

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.

XXXVI.

GOD'S CARE.

Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.

Thy righteousness is like the great mountains: thy judgments are a great deep: O Lord, thou preservest man and beast.

How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

XXXVII.

FRET NOT.

Fret not thyself because of evil doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

He is ever merciful, and lendeth, and his seed is blessed.

Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell therein for ever.

The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace.

XL.

OUT OF DISTRESS.

I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

I have preached righteousnesss in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest.

I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O Lord: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.

XLI.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.

The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in sickness.

XLII.

HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS.

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

XLVI, LV, LVI.

GOD OUR HELP.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. For thou hast delivered my soul from death, and my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

LXII.

WAITING UPON GOD.

My soul, wait thou only upon God: for my expectation is from him.

He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved.

In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.

Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.

Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

LXIII.

SEEKING GOD EARLY.

O God, thou art my God: early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

LXV.

THE ETERNAL GOODNESS.

Praise waited for thee, O God, in Zion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea:

Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power:

Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.

They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.

Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof.

Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.

They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

LXVII.

GOD IS OUR LIGHT.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us;

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

LXXXIV.

THE CHURCH.

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

LXXXV.

THE MERCY OF GOD.

Shew us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation!

Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Yea, the Lord shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

LXXXVI, LXXIII.

THE HUMBLE MAN.

Bow down thine ear, O Lord, hear me: for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my soul, O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee.

Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily.

Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications.

In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.

Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.

For thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee.

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

It is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

A SONG.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

The heavens shall praise thy wonders, O Lord: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the Saints.

O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee?

Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.

The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.

The north and the south thou hast created them.

Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.

In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

XC.

AN ANCIENT PRAYER.

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

XCI.

THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY.

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation.

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

XCIII.

THE LORD REIGNETH.

The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is established, that it cannot be moved.

Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves.

The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.

Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever.

XCV, XCVI, XCVII.

SONGS OF JOY.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

For he is our God: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.

Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength.

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.

Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein; then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice

Before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

XCVIII.

A NEW SONG.

O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

The Lord hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof: the world, and they that dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

C.

GOD'S PEOPLE.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth to all generations.

CI.

MERCY AND JUDGMENT.

I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing.

I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off; him that hath a high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

CII.

ETERNITY.

I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations.

Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them and they shall be changed.

But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.

CIII.

THE GOOD GOD.

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgression from us.

Like as a Father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul.

CIV.

THE WORKS OF GOD.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty:

Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:

Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:

Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.

At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.

They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.

Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst.

By them shall the fowls of heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.

He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.

He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;

And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

Thou makest darkness, and it is night; wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth.

The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.

Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.

That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good.

Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will praise God while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be sweet; I will be glad in the Lord.

CXI.

WITH THE WHOLE HEART.

Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.

The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant.

The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.

They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

CXII.

THE UPRIGHT.

Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.

His heart is established, he shall not be afraid.

He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor: his righteousness endureth for ever.

CXVI.

OUT OF SORROW.

I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.

Then called I upon the name of the Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.

The Lord preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.

Return unto thy rest, O my soul: for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee.

For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted:

I said in my haste, All men are liars.

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?

I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

CXIX.

THE PRAISE OF THE LAW.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.

Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.

O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes.

With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

I will delight myself in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word.

Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.

I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.

I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O Lord, put me not to shame.

I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Stablish my word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.

So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.

I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.

Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.

Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.

Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.

Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments.

Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.

The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

Thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are truth.

I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.

Seven times a day do I praise thee, because of thy righteous judgments.

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

CXXI.

UNTO THE HILLS.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

CXXVI.

FROM GRIEF TO JOY.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

CXXVII.

THE HELP OF THE LORD.

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

CXXX.

PATIENCE.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

With the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

CXXXIX.

THE EVER-PRESENT GOD.

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off.

Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me: it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in the grave, behold, thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.

Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee: but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

How precious are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them.

If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

CXL.

FAITH.

I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor.

Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

CXLIII.

THE LAND OF UPRIGHTNESS.

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.

I remember the days of old: I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land.

Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy Spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

CXLIV.

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY.

That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth;

That our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the fashion of a palace;

That our garners may be full affording all manner of store;

That our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields;

That our oxen may be strong to labor; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets.

Happy is that people that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord.

CXLV.

DAILY PRAISE.

I will extol thee, my God, O King: and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.

Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall priase thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.

I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.

And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness.

They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee.

They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power.

To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due

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Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry and will save them.

The Lord preserveth all them that love him.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

CXLVI.

FOR THE NEEDY.

Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.

Happy is he that hath God for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever.

Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners:

The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous:

The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow. Praise ye the Lord.

CXLVII.

SONGS OF NATURE.

Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.

Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving: sing praise upon the harp unto our God:

Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains.

He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.

He hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee.

He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat.

He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word runneth very swiftly.

He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoar frost like ashes.

He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?
He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.

CXLVIII.

Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights.
Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.
Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.
Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.
Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created.
He hath also established them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.
Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:
Fire, and hail; snow, and vapor; stormy wind fulfilling his word:
Mountains, and all hills; fruit trees, and all cedars:
Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:
Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:
Both young men, and maidens: old men, and children:
Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

CHOICE HYMNS TO BE LEARNED.

DR. HOLMES' HYMN.

Lord of all being, throned afar,
Thy glory flames from sun and star;
Centre and soul of every sphere,
Yet to each loving heart how near!

Sun of our life, thy quickening ray
Sheds on our path the glow of day:
Star of our hope, thy softened light
Cheers the long watches of the night.

Lord of all life, below, above,
Whose light is truth, whose warmth is love
Before thy ever-blazing throne
We ask no lustre of our own.

Grant us thy truth to make us free,
And kindling hearts that burn for thee,
Till all thy living altars claim
One holy light, one heavenly flame.

DAILY CONSECRATION.

O God, I thank thee for each sight
Of beauty that thy hand doth give,
For sunny skies and air and light:
O God, I thank thee that I live.

That life I consecrate to thee:
And ever, as the day is born,
On wings of joy my soul would flee
To thank thee for another morn.

Another day in which to cast
Some silent deed of love abroad,
That, greatening as it journeys past,
May do some earnest work for God.

Another day to do, to dare;
To use anew my growing strength;
To arm my soul with faith and prayer;
And so win life and thee at length.

Caroline A. Mason.

GOD IS LOVE.

Immortal Love, for ever full,
  For ever flowing free,
For ever shared, for ever whole,
  A never-ebbing sea!

Our outward lips confess the name
  All other names above;
But love alone knows whence it came,
  And comprehendeth love.

Blow, winds of God, awake, and blow
  The mists of earth away!
Shine out, O Light divine, and show
  How wide and far we stray!

The letter fails, the systems fall,
  And every symbol wanes:
The Spirit over-brooding all,
  Eternal Love, remains.

John G. Whittier.

ALWAYS WITH GOD.

Still, still with thee, my God,
I would desire to be:
By day, by night, at home, abroad,
I would be still with thee.

With thee amid the crowd
That throngs the busy mart,
To hear thy voice, 'mid clamor loud,
Speak softly to my heart.

With thee, when day is done,
And evening calms the mind;
The setting, as the rising, sun
With thee my heart would find.

With thee, when darkness brings
The signal of repose,
Calm in the shadow of thy wings,
Mine eyelids I would close.
With thee, in thee, by faith
Abiding I would be;
By day, by night, in life, in death,
I would be still with thee.

James Drummond Burns.

A MORNING HYMN.

Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

Wake and lift up thyself, my heart;
And with the angels bear thy part,
Who all night long unwearied sing
High praise to the eternal King.

Lord, I my vows to thee renew;
Scatter my sins like morning dew,
Guard my first springs of thought and will,
And with thyself my spirit fill.

Direct, control, suggest, this day,
All I design or do or say;
That all my powers, with all their might,
In thy sole glory may unite.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow:
Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him, ye heavenly host above!
Praise him, my soul, for all his love!

Bishop Thomas Kent.

EVENING HYMN.

Now, on sea and land descending,
Brings the night its peace profound:
Let our vesper hymn be blending
With the holy calm around.
Soon as dies the sunset glory,
Stars of heaven shine out above,
Telling still the ancient story,—
Their Creator's changeless love.

Now, our wants and burdens leaving
To his care who cares for all,
Cease we fearing, cease we grieving;
At his touch our burdens fall.
As the darkness deepens o'er us,
Lo! eternal stars arise;
Hope and Faith and Love rise glorious,
Shining in the Spirit's skies.

Samuel Longfellow.

ADDISON'S HYMN.

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.
The unwearied sun, from day to day,
Does his Creator's power display,
And publishes to every land
The work of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the listening earth
Repeats the story of her birth;
While all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets, in their turn,
Confirm the tidings, as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all
Move round this dark terrestrial ball
What though no real voice nor sound
Amid their radiant orbs be found!—
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice;
For ever singing, as they shine,
"The hand that made us is divine."

JOHN STERLING'S HYMN.

O Source divine, and Life of all,
The Fount of being's wondrous sea!
Thy depth would every heart appall,
That saw not love supreme in thee.

We shrink before thy vast abyss,
Where worlds on worlds unnumbered brood;
We know thee truly but in this,—
That thou bestowest all our good.

And so, 'mid boundless time and space,
Oh, grant us still in thee to dwell,
And through the ceaseless web to trace
Thy presence working all things well!

Bestow on every joyous thrill
A deeper tone of reverent awe;
Make pure thy children's erring will,
And teach their hearts to love thy law.

THE INDWELLING GOD.

God of the earth, the sky, the sea;
Of all above and all below,—
Creation lives and moves in thee;
Thy present life through all doth flow.

Thy love is in the sunshine's glow,
Thy life is in the quickening air:
When lightnings flash and storm-winds blow,
There is thy power; thy law is there.

We feel thy calm at evening's hour,
Thy grandeur in the march of night;
And, when the morning breaks in power,
We hear thy word, "Let there be light."

But higher far, and far more clear,
Thee in man's spirit we behold;
Thine image and thyself are there,—
The indwelling God, proclaimed of old. *Samuel Longfellow.*

THE GOD OF ALL PEOPLES.

God of ages and of nations
  Every race, and every time,
Hath received thine inspirations,
  Glimpses of thy truth sublime.
Ever spirits, in rapt vision,
  Passed the heavenly veil within;
Ever hearts, bowed in contrition,
  Found salvation from their sin.

Reason's noble aspiration,
  Truth in growing clearness saw;
Conscience spoke its condemnation,
  Or proclaimed the Eternal Law.
While thine inward revelations
  Told thy saints their prayers were heard,
Prophets to the guilty nations
  Spoke thine everlasting word.

Lord, that word abideth ever;
  Revelation is not sealed;
Answering unto man's endeavor,
  Truth and Right are still revealed.
That which came to ancient sages,
  Greek, Barbarian, Roman, Jew,
Written in the heart's deep pages,
  Shines to-day, for ever new! *Samuel Longfellow.*

THE HYMN OF TRUST.

While thee I seek, protecting Power,
  Be my vain wishes stilled;
And may this consecrated hour
  With better hopes be filled.
Thy love the powers of thought bestowed,
  To thee my thoughts would soar;
Thy mercy o'er my life has flowed,
  That mercy I adore.

In each event of life, how clear
  Thy ruling hand I see
Each blessing to my soul more dear,
  Because conferred by thee.
In every joy that crowns my days,
  In every pain I bear,
My heart shall find delight in praise,
  Or seek relief in prayer.

When gladness wings my favored hour,
Thy love my thoughts shall fill;
Resigned, when storms of sorrow lower,
My soul shall meet thy will.
My lifted eye, without a tear,
The lowering storm shall see;
My steadfast heart shall know no fear,
That heart will rest on thee.

Helen Maria Williams.

SAMUEL JOHNSON'S HYMN.

Father, in thy mysterious presence kneeling,
Fain would our souls feel all thy kindling love;
For we are weak, and need some deep revealing
Of trust and strength and calmness from above.

Lord, we have wandered forth through doubt and sorrow,
And thou hast made each step an onward one;
And we will ever trust each unknown morrow,—
Thou wilt sustain us till its work is done.

In the heart's depths a peace serene and holy
Abides; and when pain seems to have its will,
Or we despair, oh, may that peace rise slowly,
Stronger than agony, and we be still!

Now, Father, now, in thy dear presence kneeling,
Our spirits yearn to feel thy kindling love:
Now make us strong, we need thy deep revealing
Of trust and strength and calmness from above.

CHADWICK'S HYMN.

Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round
Of circling planets singing on their way,
Guide of the nations from the night profound
Into the glory of the perfect day,
Rule in our hearts that we may ever be
Guided and strengthened and upheld by thee!

We would be one in hatred of all wrong,
One in our love of all things sweet and fair,
One with the joy that breaketh into song,
One with the grief that trembles into prayer,
One in the power that makes thy children free
To follow truth, and thus to follow thee!

JOHN NEWTON'S HYMN.

Quiet, Lord, my froward heart;
Make me teachable and mild,
Upright, simple, free from art,—
Make me as a little child:
From distrust and envy free,
Pleased with all that pleases thee.

What thou shalt today provide,
Let me as a child receive;
What to-morrow may betide,
Calmly to thy wisdom leave.
'Tis enough that thou wilt care:
Why should I the burden bear?

As a little child relies
On a care beyond his own;
Knows he's neither strong nor wise,
Fears to stir a step alone,—
Let me thus with thee abide,
As my Father, Guard, and Guide.

SIR JOHN BOWRING'S HYMN.

God is love: his mercy brightens
All the path in which we rove;
Bliss he wakes, and woe he lightens:
God is wisdom, God is love.

Chance and change are busy ever;
Man decays, and ages move;
But his mercy waneth never:
God is wisdom, God is love.

E'en the hour that darkest seemeth
Will his changeless goodness prove;
From the gloom his brightness streameth:
God is wisdom, God is love.

He with earthly cares entwineth
Hope and comfort from above;
Everywhere his glory shineth:
God is wisdom, God is love.

THE CITY OF GOD.

City of God, how broad and far
Outspread thy walls sublime!
The true thy chartered freemen are,
Of every age and clime.

One holy Church, one army strong,
One steadfast high intent,
One working band, one harvest-song,
One King Omnipotent.

How purely hath thy speech come down
From man's primeval youth
How grandly hath thine empire grown
Of Freedom, Love, and Truth!

How gleam thy watch-fires through the night,
With never-fainting ray!
How rise thy towers, serene and bright,
To meet the dawning day!

In vain the surge's angry shock,
In vain the drifting sands;
Unharmed, upon the Eternal Rock,
The Eternal City stands.

Samuel Johnson.

THE NEW DAY.

Oh, sometimes gleams upon our sight,
Through present wrong, the eternal Right;
And step by step, since time began,
We see the steady gain of man.

That all of good the past hath had
Remains to make our own time glad,
Our common, daily life divine,
And every land a Palestine.

Through the harsh noises of our day,
A low, sweet prelude finds its way;
Through clouds of doubt, and creeds of fear,
A light is breaking calm and clear.

Henceforth my heart shall sigh no more
For olden time and holier shore;
God's love and blessing, then and there,
Are now and here and everywhere.

J. G. Whittier.

GEORGE HERBERT'S HYMN.

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see;
And what I do in any thing,
To do it as for thee.

To scorn the senses' sway,
  While still to thee I tend;
In all I do, be thou the way,—
  In all be thou the end.

All may of thee partake:
  Nothing so small can be,
But draws, when acted for thy sake,
  Greatness and worth from thee.

If done beneath thy laws,
  E'en servile labors shine:
Hallowed is toil if this the cause,
  The meanest work divine.

THE ARMY OF GOD.

Thou Lord of Hosts, whose guiding hand
Has brought us here, before thy face
Our spirits wait for thy command,
Our silent hearts implore thy peace.

Those spirits lay their noblest powers
As offerings on thy holy shrine:
Thine was the strength that nourish'd ours;
The soldiers of the cross are thine.

Send us where'er thou wilt, O Lord
Through rugged toil and, wearying fight:
Thy conquering love shall be our sword,
And faith in thee our truest might.

Send down thy constant aid, we pray;
Be thy pure angels with us still;
Thy truth, be that our firmest stay;
Our only rest, to do thy will.

O. B. Frothingham.

SIR HENRY WOTTON'S HYMN.

How happy is he born or taught,
  Who serveth not another's will;
Whose armor is his honest thought,
  And simple truth his highest skill;

Whose passions not his masters are;
  Whose soul is still prepared for death,
Not tied unto the world with care
  Of prince's ear or vulgar breath;

Who God doth late and early pray
More of his grace than goods to lend;
And walks with man, from day to day,
As with a brother and a friend.

This man is freed from servile bands
Of hope to rise, or fear to fall;
Lord of himself, though not of lands,
And having nothing, yet hath all.

THE DOVE.

The dove let loose in eastern skies,
Returning fondly home,
Ne'er stoops to earth her wing, nor flies
Where idle warblers roam:

But high she shoots through air and light,
Above all low delay;
Where nothing earthly bounds her flight,
Nor shadow dims her way.

So grant me, Lord, from every snare
Of sinful passion free,
Aloft, through faith's serener air,
To urge my course to thee;

No sin to cloud, no lure to stay
My soul, as home she springs,—
Thy sunshine on her joyful way,
Thy freedom on her wings.

Thomas Moore.

ALL AS GOD WILLS.

All as God wills! who wisely heeds
To give or to withhold,
And knoweth more of all my needs
Than all my prayers have told.

Enough, that blessings undeserved
Have marked my erring track;
That, wheresoe'er my feet have swerved,
Thy chastening turned me back;

That more and more a providence
Of love is understood,
Making the springs of time and sense
Sweet with eternal good;

That death seems but a covered way
Which opens into light,
Wherein no blinded child can stray
Beyond the Father's sight.

No longer forward or behind
I look, in hope or fear,
But grateful take the good I find,
God's blessing, now and here.

John G. Whittier.

LIFE.

O Life that maketh all things new,—
The blooming earth, the thoughts of men
Our pilgrim feet, wet with thy dew,
In gladness hither turn again.

From hand to hand the greeting flows,
From eye to eye the signals run,
From heart to heart the bright hope glows;
The seekers of the Light are one.

One in the freedom of the truth,
One in the joy of paths untrod,
One in the soul's perennial youth,
One in the larger thought of God;—

The freer step, the fuller breath,
The wide horizon's grander view.
The sense of life that knows no death,—
The Life that maketh all things new.

Samuel Longfellow.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The prairies to the mountains call,
The mountains to the sea;
From shore to shore a nation keeps
Her martyr's memory.

Though lowly born, the seal of God
Was in that rugged face:
Still from the humble Nazareths come
The saviours of the race.

With patient heart and vision clear
He wrought through trying days,—
"Malice toward none, with love for all."
Unswerved by blame or praise.

And when the morn of Peace broke through
The battle's cloud and din,
He hailed with joy the promised land
He might not enter in.

He seemed as set by God apart,
The winepress trod alone;
Now stands he forth an uncrowned king,
A people's heart his throne.

Land of our loyal love and hope,
O Land he died to save,
Bow down, renew today thy vows
Beside his martyr grave!

Frederick L. Hosmer.

THE PILGRIMS.

The breaking waves dashed high
On a stern and rock-bound coast,
And the woods against a stormy sky
Their giant branches tossed;
And the heavy night hung dark,
The hills and waters o'er,
When a band of exiles moored their bark
On the wild New England shore.

Not as the conqueror comes,
They, the true-hearted came;
Not with the roll of stirring drums,
And the trump that sings of fame:
Not as the flying comes,
In silence and in fear;
They shook the depths of the desert's gloom
With their hymns of lofty cheer.

Amidst the storm they sang;
And the stars heard, and the sea
And the sounding aisles of the dim woods rang
To the anthem of the free.
The ocean eagle soared
From his nest by the white wave's foam,
And the rocking pines of the forest roared,
This was their welcome home!

What sought they thus afar?
Bright jewels of the mine?
The wealth of seas, the spoils of war?
They sought a faith's pure shrine!

Ay, call it holy ground,
  The soil where first they trod
They have left unstained, what here they found:
  Freedom to worship God.

Felicia D. Hemans.

EACH IN HIS OWN TONGUE.

A fire-mist and a planet,—
  A crystal and a cell,—
A jelly-fish and a saurian,
  And caves where the cavemen dwell
Then a sense of law and beauty,
  And a face turned from the clod,—
Some call it evolution,
  And others call it—God.

A haze on the far horizon,
  The infinite, tender sky,
The ripe, rich tints of the corn-fields,
  And the wild geese sailing high,—
And all over upland and lowland
  The charm of the golden-rod,—
Some of us call it Autumn,
  And others call it—God.

Like tides on a crescent sea-beach
  When the moon is new and thin,
Into our hearts, high yearnings
  Come welling and surging in,—
Come from the mystic ocean
  Whose rim no foot has trod,—
Some of us call it Longing,
  And others call it—God.

A picket frozen on duty,—
  A mother starved for her brood,—
Socrates drinking the hemlock,
  And Jesus on the rood;
And the millions, who, humble and nameless,
  The hard, strait pathway plod,—
Some call it Consecration,
  And others call it—God.

W. H. Carruth.

A PRAYER.

Father, whate'er of earthly bliss
  Thy sovereign will denies;
Accepted at Thy throne of grace,
  Let this petition rise.

Give me a calm and thankful heart,
  From every murmur free;
The blessings of Thy grace impart,
  And help me live to Thee.

May the sweet hope that Thou art mine,
  My life and death attend;
Thy presence through my journey shine,
  And crown my journey's end.

Anna Steele.

MRS. STOWE'S HYMN.

When winds are raging o'er the upper ocean,
  And billows wild contend with angry roar,
'Tis said, far down beneath the wild commotion,
  That peaceful stillness reigneth evermore.

Far, far beneath, the noise of tempest dieth,
  And silver waves chime ever peacefully;
And no rude storm, how fierce soe'er it flieth,
  Disturbs the sabbath of that deeper sea.

So to the heart that knows thy love, O Purest!
  There is a temple, sacred evermore;
And all the Babel of life's angry voices
  Dies in hushed stillness at its peaceful door.

Far, far away, the roar of passion dieth,
  And loving thoughts rise calm and peacefully;
And no rude storm, how fierce soe'er it flieth,
  Disturbs the soul that dwells, O Lord, in thee.

THE PSALM OF LIFE.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
  Life is but an empty dream;
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
  And things are not what they seem.

Life is real, life is earnest,
  And the grave is not its goal:
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
  Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
  Is our destined end and way;
But to act, that each tomorrow
  Find us further than today.

Trust no future, howe'er pleasant;
  Let the dead Past bury its dead:
Act, act in the living Present,
  Heart within and God o'erhead.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
  With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
  Learn to labor and to wait.

Henry W. Longfellow.

So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
  So near is God to man,
When Duty whispers low, "Thou must,"
  The youth replies, "I can."

Emerson.

"With Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

It fortifies my soul to know
That, though I perish, Truth is so;
That, howsoe'er I stray and range,
Whate'er I do, Thou dost not change.
I steadier step when I recall
That, if I sleep, Thou dost not fall.

Clough.

FORWARD.

One who never turned his back, but marched breast forward,
  Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,
  Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better, sleep to wake.

Now, at noonday, in the bustle of man's work time
  Greet the unseen with a cheer!
Bid him forward, breast and back, as either should be,
  "Strive and thrive!" cry "Speed,—fight on forever,
    There as here!"

Browning.

BE NOBLE.

Be noble! And the nobleness that lies
In other men, sleeping, but never dead,
Will rise in majesty to meet thine own;
Then wilt thou see it gleam in many eyes,
Then will pure light around thy path be shed,
And thou wilt never more be sad and lone.

J. R. Lowell.

THROUGH LOVE TO LIGHT.

Through love to light! Oh, wonderful the way
That leads from darkness to the perfect day!
From darkness and from sorrow of the night
To morning that comes singing o'er the sea.
Through love to light! Through light, O God, to Thee,
Who art the love of love, the eternal light of light.

R. W. Gilder.

LETTERS.

Every day brings a ship,
Every ship brings a word;
Well for those who have no fear,
Looking seaward well assured
That the word the vessel brings
Is the word they wish to hear.

Emerson.

THE THOUGHT OF GOD.

One thought I have, my ample creed,
So deep it is and broad,
And equal to my every need,—
It is the thought of God.

Each morn unfolds some fresh surprise,
I feast at Life's full board;
And, rising in my inner skies,
Shines forth the thought of God.

At night my gladness is my prayer;
I drop my daily load,
And every care is pillowed there
Upon the thought of God.

I ask not far before to see,
But take in trust, my road;
Life, death, and immortality
Are in my thought of God.

To this their secret strength they owed
The martyr's path who trod;
The fountains of their patience flowed
From out their thought of God.

Be still the light upon my way,
My pilgrim staff and rod,
My rest by night, my strength by day,
O blessed thought of God.

F. L. Hosmer.

SAY NOT THE STRUGGLE NOUGHT AVAILETH.

Say not, The struggle nought availeth,
The labor and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not, nor faileth,
And as things have been, they remain.

If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars;
It may be, in yon smoke concealed,
Your comrades chase e'en now the flyers,
And, but for you, possess the field.

For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back, through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.

And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light,
In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright.

Clough.

THE CHAMBERED NAUTILUS.

This is the ship of pearl, which, poets feign,
Sails the unshadowed main,—
The venturous bark that flings
On the sweet summer wind its purpled wings
In gulfs enchanted where the Siren sings,
And coral reefs lie bare,
Where the cold sea-maids rise to sun their streaming hair.

Its webs of living gauze no more unfurl;
Wrecked is the ship of pearl
And every chambered cell,
Where its dim, dreaming life was wont to dwell,
As the frail tenant shaped his growing shell,
Before thee lies revealed,—
Its irised ceiling rent, its sunless crypt unsealed!

Year after year beheld the silent toil
That spread his lustrous coil;
  Still, as the spiral grew,
  He left the past year's dwelling for the new,
  Stole with soft step its shiny archway through,
Built up its idle door,
Stretched in his last-found home, and knew the old no more.

Thanks for the heavenly message brought by thee,
Child of the wandering sea,
  Cast from her lap, forlorn!
  From thy dead lips a clearer note is born
  Than ever Triton blew from wreathed horn!
While on mine ear it rings,
Through the deep caves of thought I hear a voice that sings:—

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
  Leave thy low-vaulted past!
  Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
  Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!

O. W. Holmes.

SELECT PASSAGES FOR READING.

The Story of Creation. Gen. i-ii: 4.
The Story of Rebekah. Gen. xxiv.
The Vision of Jacob's Ladder. Gen. xxviii : 10–22.
The Meeting of Jacob and Esau. Gen. xxxiii.
From the Story of Joseph. (1) Gen. xxxvii : 3–36.
From the Story of Joseph. (2) Gen. xl.
From the Story of Joseph. (3) Gen. xli : 1–46.
From the Story of Joseph. (4) Gen. xli : 46—xlii : 29.
From the Story of Joseph. (5) Gen. xlii : xliii : 25.
From the Story of Joseph. (6) Gen. xliii : 25—xlv.
From the Story of Joseph. (7) Gen. xlv.
Israel in Egypt. Ex. i : 8—15, 22.
The Rescue of Moses. Ex. ii : 1–11.
The Burning Bush. Ex. iii : 1–7.
The Fire and the Cloud. Num. ix : 15–23.
The Story of Gideon. Judges vii : 1–23.
An Ancient Parable. Judges ix : 7–20.
The Laws of Mercy. Lev. xix : 9–19, 32–37.
Laws of Mercy. Lev. xxv : 17–44.
The Boy Samuel. I. Sam. iii.

Saul and his Father's Asses. I. Sam. ix, x : 1–25.
The Anointing of David as King. I. Sam. xvi.
David and Goliath. I. Sam. xvii.
The Two Friends, David and Jonathan. I. Sam. xviii : 1–17; xix, xx.
David Spares Saul's Life. I. Sam. xxiv.
The Story of Abigail. I. Sam. xxv : 1–38.
Nathan the Prophet before David. II. Sam. xii : 1–11.
The Death of Absalom. II. Sam. xviii.
The Well in Bethlehem. II. Sam. xxiii : 13–18.
The Golden Age. I. Kings iv : 21–34.
The Building of the Temple. I. Kings v.
The Queen of Sheba. I. Kings x : 1–16.
Stories of Elijah. I. Kings xvii : 1–17.
The Still Small Voice. I. Kings xix : 1–14.
The King and the Vineyard. I. Kings xxi : 1–20.
Naaman and the Little Maid. II. Kings v : 1–20.
The Captive Army. II. Kings vi : 8–24.
The Four Lepers. II. Kings vii : 3–19.
The Patriot Governor. Neh. xi : 1–19.
The Building of the Wall. Neh. iv.
Jeremiah in the Dungeon. Jer. xxxviii.
Daniel in the Palace. Dan. i.
The Men Who Would Not Worship the Golden Idol. Dan. iii.
Daniel and the Lion's Den. Dan. vi.
Jonah and the Gourd. Jon. iii, iv.
The Good Samaritan. Luke x : 25–33.
The Prodigal Son. Luke xv : 11 etc.
Paul's Shipwreck. Acts xxvii.

WHAT EVERYONE OUGHT TO KNOW.

Name the first five books of the Old Testament.

Who is the hero of the book of Exodus? Moses.

How many hundred years B. C. is Moses thought to have lived? Thirteen hundred years.

What did he do for his people? He led them from Egypt, the land of bondage, into Palestine.

What else is Moses said to have done? He gave laws to his people.

What two books follow Deuteronomy? Joshua and Judges.

What do these two books relate? Stories of Joshua and other Jewish heroes.

What short book follows Judges? Ruth.

What does this book relate? The story of a Hebrew girl.

What six books of history follow Ruth?

Over how many hundred years do these books of history carry us? More than 450 years; from Saul, the first king, about 1060 B. C., to Zedekiah, the last king of Judea, about 600 B. C.

What happened to Zedekiah? He and his nobles were carried away by the great king, Nebuchadnezzar, into captivity in Babylon.

What two books tell the story of the attempt of the Hebrew people to return and rebuild their city? Ezra and Nehemiah.

What story of a queen follows Nehemiah?

Repeat all the books in order as far as Esther.

What five books of poetry and wisdom make the middle of the Bible?

Which is the most important of all these five books?

What is your favorite Psalm?

Repeat all the books of the Bible as far as the Song of Solomon.

What are the rest of the books of the Old Testament called after the song of Solomon? The Prophets.

By what other name may we call the books of the Prophets? The Books of Truth and Justice.

Name the four long, or greater prophets.

Name the next six. Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah.

Who is the last of the prophets? Malachi.

With what four books does the Collection in the New Testament begin? The four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

Whose life and teachings do the Gospels relate?

What long book follows the Gospels? The book of Acts.

What does the book of Acts relate? The beginning of the early church.

About what two men does this book tell special stories? About Peter and Paul.

Whose letters follow the book of Acts?

Which are the longest of these letters of Paul? One to the Romans, two to the Corinthians.

What short letters of Paul follow the longer letters? To the Galatians, to the Ephesians, to the Philippians, to the Colossians, and two to the Thessalonians.

What personal letters under Paul's name follow the letters to the churches? To Timothy, to Titus, and to Philemon.

What long letter follows the letters of Paul? The Epistle to the Hebrews.

What short letters follow the Epistle to the Hebrews? The Epistle of James, the two Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, the Epistle of Jude.

What is the last book of the New Testament?

Name the books of the New Testament in order.

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